

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-0420V

UNPUBLISHED

MICHAEL POOLE,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: April 23, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-  
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Paul R. Brazil, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.*

*Sarah Black Rifkin, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

## **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On April 13, 2020, Michael Poole filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered to him on October 4, 2017. Petition at 1. Petitioner further alleges that his injury lasted for more than six months. Petition at 3. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On November 5, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On April 22, 2021, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded a total of \$229,310.16 representing \$225,000.00 in pain and suffering and \$4,310.16 for past unreimbursable expenses. Proffer at 2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$229,310.16 (representing \$225,000 in pain and suffering and \$4,310.16 for past unreimbursable expenses) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

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MICHAEL POOLE,	)	
	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	No. 20-420V (ECF)
	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
v.	)	
	)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

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**RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On April 13, 2020, Michael Poole (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, [42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1](#) to -34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), alleging that he suffered Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) after receiving an influenza vaccine on October 4, 2017. Petition at 1. On November 4, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report indicating that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a GBS Table injury, and on November 5, 2020, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. [ECF No. 16](#); [ECF No. 17](#).

**I.      Items of Compensation**

A.      Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$225,000.00 in pain and suffering.

*See* [42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15\(a\)\(4\)](#). Petitioner agrees.

B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that he incurred past unreimbursable expenses related to his vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$4,310.16. See **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B)**.

Petitioner agrees.

These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)**. Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following: a lump sum payment of \$229,310.16 in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

**III. Summary of Recommended Payments Following Judgment**

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Michael Poole: **\$229,310.16**

Respectfully submitted,

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DATED: April 22, 2021